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June 4, 2010

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EXPO LINE AUTHORITY APPROVES SUPERVISOR RIDLEY-THOMAS AND COUNCILMEMBER WESSON'S CALL FOR UNPRECEDENTED EFFORTS TO PROVIDE CONSTRUCTION JOBS FOR LOCAL AND DISADVANTAGED RESIDENTS

*Local hiring policy will have a major impact on the creation of jobs
in key areas surrounding the Expo Line*

LOS ANGELES -- At the request of Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas and L.A. City Councilman Herb Wesson, the Exposition Metro Line Authority voted unanimously last week to develop a strong local hiring policy to ensure that unemployed and underemployed residents receive employment opportunities in construction of the Exposition Light Rail Line Phase 2 project.

Specifically the motion instructed staff to develop a local hire program that targets residents residing within five miles of the project, disadvantaged workers, and individuals residing within areas of Los Angeles County where unemployment exceeds 150% of the County average.

The new policy will have a major impact on the creation of jobs in key areas surrounding the Expo Line. The project is estimated to produce a total of 6,550 jobs across the two development phases. Phase I is expected to generate 3,600 development period jobs and 250 permanent jobs, and phase II is expected to generate an additional 2,700 development period jobs.

"Today's action by the Expo Authority will ensure that local residents are given critically needed employment opportunities to work on this \$1.5 billion major local transit project," Supervisor Ridley-Thomas said.

"There is an abundance of capable and willing workers in the service area of the proposed Exposition Light Rail project and today the Board has made a commitment to provide jobs to many of them."

The motion submitted by Supervisor Ridley-Thomas and Councilman Wesson specifically requires that at least 30% of the employment hours provided by contractors shall be completed by workers living within the five mile radius from the Project Alignment (the entire route from Los Angeles to Santa Monica).

Expo staff was also instructed to focus their efforts on areas where the unemployment rate exceeds 150% of the County average and asked that disadvantaged workers -- those with criminal records, educational deficits, poverty and other indices of career-limiting circumstances -- comprise 10% of the workers subject to the Construction Careers Policy.

In addition, the motion also instructed the Expo Authority Board to authorize the agency's Chief Executive and staff to negotiate a Project Labor Agreement with the Building Trades Council of Los Angeles and Orange Counties, to include protections from work stoppages, labor unavailability and other circumstances that could hinder the delivery schedule and project budget for Phase II.

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